

Wesley United Methodist, the fortress-like church outside of Hampstead and in the area called Houcksville , stands unexpectedly among farmland and sparse rural dwellings. The heavy stone facades, battlement capped towers, and white stone accents accomodate a congregation that dates back to the 1770's when itinerant preachers held services in a nearby farmhouse. The original structure, "Brown's Meeting House" named for the previous owner of the land, was built in 1800.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Brown's Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

Wesley United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Carrollton &amp; Wesley Roads

CITY, TOWN

Hampstead

☒

VICINITY OF

Houcksville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Wesley Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Carrollton &amp; Wesley Roads

CITY, TOWN

Hampstead

☒

VICINITY OF

Houcksville

STATE, zip code

Md.

21074

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building (exempt records)

Liber #: None

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

225 NORTH CENTER STREET

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

~~EXCELLENT~~  
~~GOOD~~  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
~~ALTERED~~

~~ORIGINAL SITE~~  
 MOVED DATE 1921

original site of this building - not of Brown's  
 Meeting House... located in grave yard

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR - Wesley Methodist Church stands about 20 yards from, level with and facing Carrollton Road. The front facade faces south to southwest with its own graveyard to the west, and a contemporary addition (1974) to the east. It is set among large, full trees, particularly in the front, and rolling farmland all around. The rural area is void of but a few buildings. Built on a small incline, the front gradually slopes down, leaving the foundation uncovered as it goes.

The building is more or less square, whose post-WWI design includes fancy stonework, buttresses, towers and battlements. The bold military-type decor appears solid and rambling. The structure is a 5-bay front, 4-bay side, with two protruding towers on either side of the facade to accomodate two narthexes. The wall structure and foundation is strictly coursed with a rockfaced stone (granite?), separated by vertical and horizontal lines of coarse pebbled mortar. The mortar protrudes  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{1}{4}$  ".

The two-story building is topped with a slate shingle hip roof which tends to be hidden by front towers, gable and side walls.

FRONT FACADE - The roofline of the front facade is broken with a gable shaped wall in the middle pavillion and towers. Two front entrances, one in each tower, are the outside bays of the 5-bay front. The middle pavillion has a large center, pointed arch, stained glass window, whose shape is similarly repeated in the gable roofline. A side bay on either side of this large window is a smaller pointed arch stained glass window. All entrances windows and belfry arches are pointed and framed either semi or fully by white stone accents of some form.

The entrances are rectangular, double wooden doors. They are two-panelled, vertically moulded with a pointed arch stained glass transom. Trim is plain on these doors; five cement steps and platform lead to stone steps and into slightly recessed doors. The entrances are identical, but the towers are not. The eastern tower is 15-20 feet taller than the western one, to house the belfry, which has a set of pointed arch openings on each of its four sides. Both towers have a square window with vents, stone lintel and base on each facade, on the front, above the entrance. Each tower is also topped with battlements. The corner battlements are of the same medium as walls; the middle ones and caps of all are of white contrast stone. Decorative buttresses of rock-faced, and white stone contrast, adorn corners of both towers and are present on most wall surfaces. Note that around the entire building (1921) white stone contrast has been used, including the water table.

CONTINUED on loose sheet

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Methodist Churches in Carroll County 1764-1837"  
 compiled by Branford Gist Lynch - Democratic Advocate 1937

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Carroll

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Fredi Eckhardt historic site surveyor

ORGANIZATION Carroll County Committee for the Maryland  
 Historical Trust

DATE Fall-1978

STREET & NUMBER 210 East Main Street

TELEPHONE 848-6494

CITY OR TOWN Westminster

STATE Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1900-1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wesley Church, near Houcksville and on Carrollton Road stands today as a recent structure, whose architecture echoes vibrations of post-WWI. Yet, its history places it as an early landmark of Methodism in the county and state as well as the nation.

Between 1770-1800 Methodist services were held by itinerant preachers in one John Algires farm-house, about a quarter of a mile from the present church. It is said that Robert Strawbridge, the first Methodist minister in America and Francis Asbury, the first Methodist bishop ordained in America preached in Algires' farmhouse. Time for services were not preset. When a preacher arrived word was sent around the community and the congregation gathered.

In 1797 the congregation outgrew the farmhouse. An acre of land was purchased from one John Brown for three pounds, English currency and in 1800 the congregation built a log church, know as Brown's Meeting House, to be used by the Methodists; Episcopalians; Presbyterians and Baptist congregations. For 40 years the structure remained the same and in 1840, Brown's Meeting House was remodeled and served its congregation for 38 more years. In total; 1800-1878 and renamed Wesley. This church was a brown stone 2-bay front, three-bay side, one and a half story structure, with a gable roof and belfry. Its simple plan followed the simplicity of the first log structure, which we gather from drawings was a two-story, one-bay front, two-bay side, gable roof structure.

The brown stone building was destroyed by fire in 1919 and in 1921 a cornerstone was laid for the present structure. It was dedicated in 1922, following a cost of \$35,000. Its history dates back to Strawbridge and includes him in its strength and formation. The church today stands accommodating one of the largest rural congregations in the county.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CARR. -285  
Brown's Meeting House  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
vinc. Houcksville

## 7 Description

sides - The west side of Wesley has a single, exterior chimney of the same medium (rockfaced) with a battlement top, and capped with a covering, slab of white stone. The broken roofline is similar to the front facade, with central large window and gable wall. The gable walls of both sides are topped with a very obvious keystone. The east side wall is the same as the west, but the last two northern most bays, are connected to the contemporary building. Working basement windows are 3/3 with stone lintel and base.

back-- The back wall is three-bays; a two-bay protruding wall accomodates the chancel area. Basement windows are of the same construction as side windows.

The fortress type building with white accents has a cornerstone which reads, "Wesley Chapel M. E. Church 1800-1878, 1921"

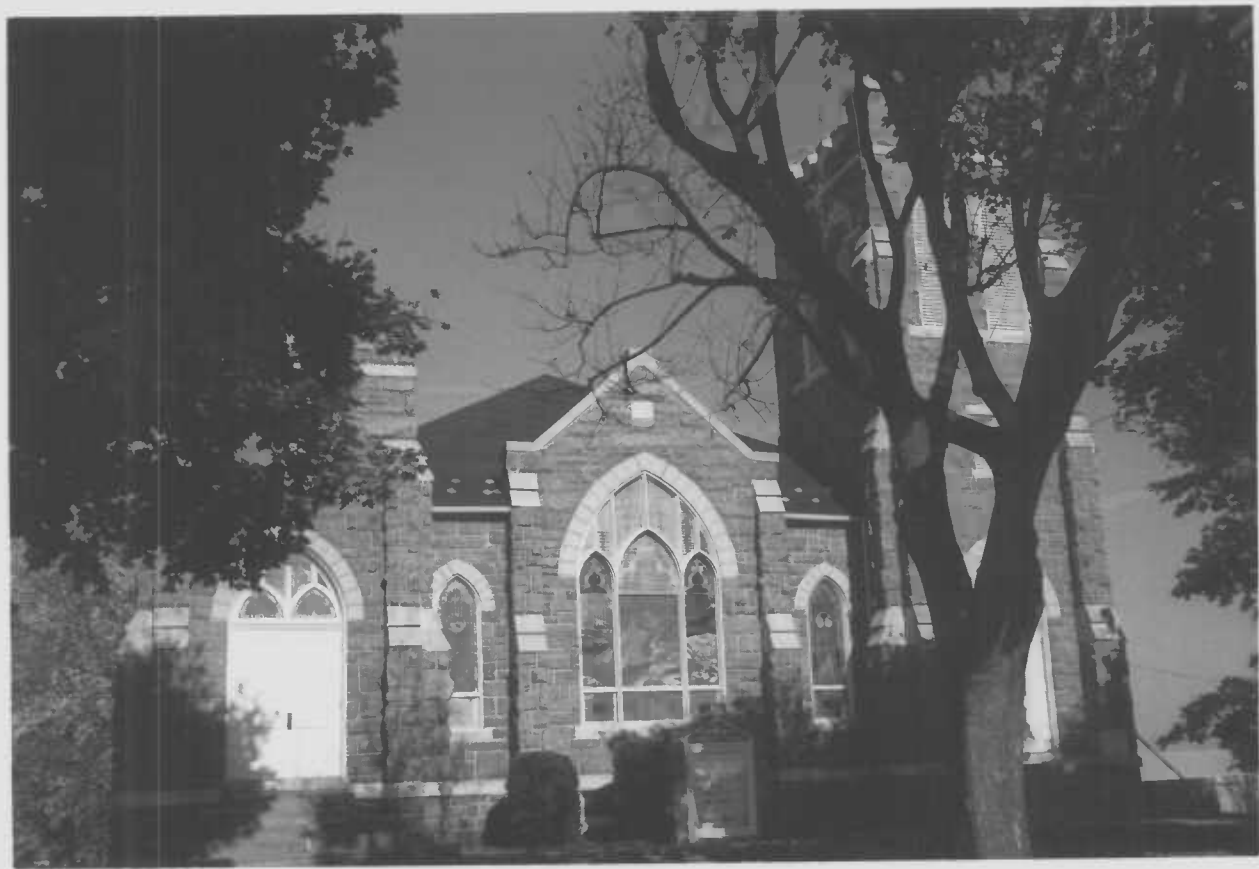
INTERIOR--The nave can be entered through the two front doors, each with its own narthex or through the east side door which now leads to the 1974 building. The rectangular nave is eleven pews deep, on a slant away from the front facade and towards the chancel area. There are middle and side aisles. Walls are plaster, with seven inch baseboard. Ceilings are all of wood, thinly panelled, in various patterns. Each section has wood framing. The sides slant to the flat ceiling.

There are three-bays of recessed windows, on either side of the nave, including the central, large ones. All are encased in pointed arches, with plain trim and deep sills. The back wall is three-bays wide, similar to side. Either narthex along the wall protrudes out, and the entrance way is framed by a wood beam, pointed arch construction, flat against the wall. It is of a simple wood and plaster decor. Double, single panelled recessed doors and panelled interior archway lead to the narthex. Each narthex is a small square room, with a pair of pointed arch, stained glass windows of the same motif as others on exterior side walls.

The western-most narthex has a closed - string stairway leading to the finished basement.

The chancel area includes altar and choir area; the former accented and enclosed with a decoratively, turned railing. Two large, pointed archways frame and introduce the chancel area; they are supported with wood supports.

The construction, material and idea behind this structure is very similar to the Armory in Westminster, *exterior only*.



Wesley United Meth. Church

Nov. - 78

Can. - 285

S/W elevator (front)

fredi E.





Wesley United Methodist Church

Nov. - 78

Can. - 285

corner — S/W front, N/W  $\frac{1}{4}$  side  
facing E.



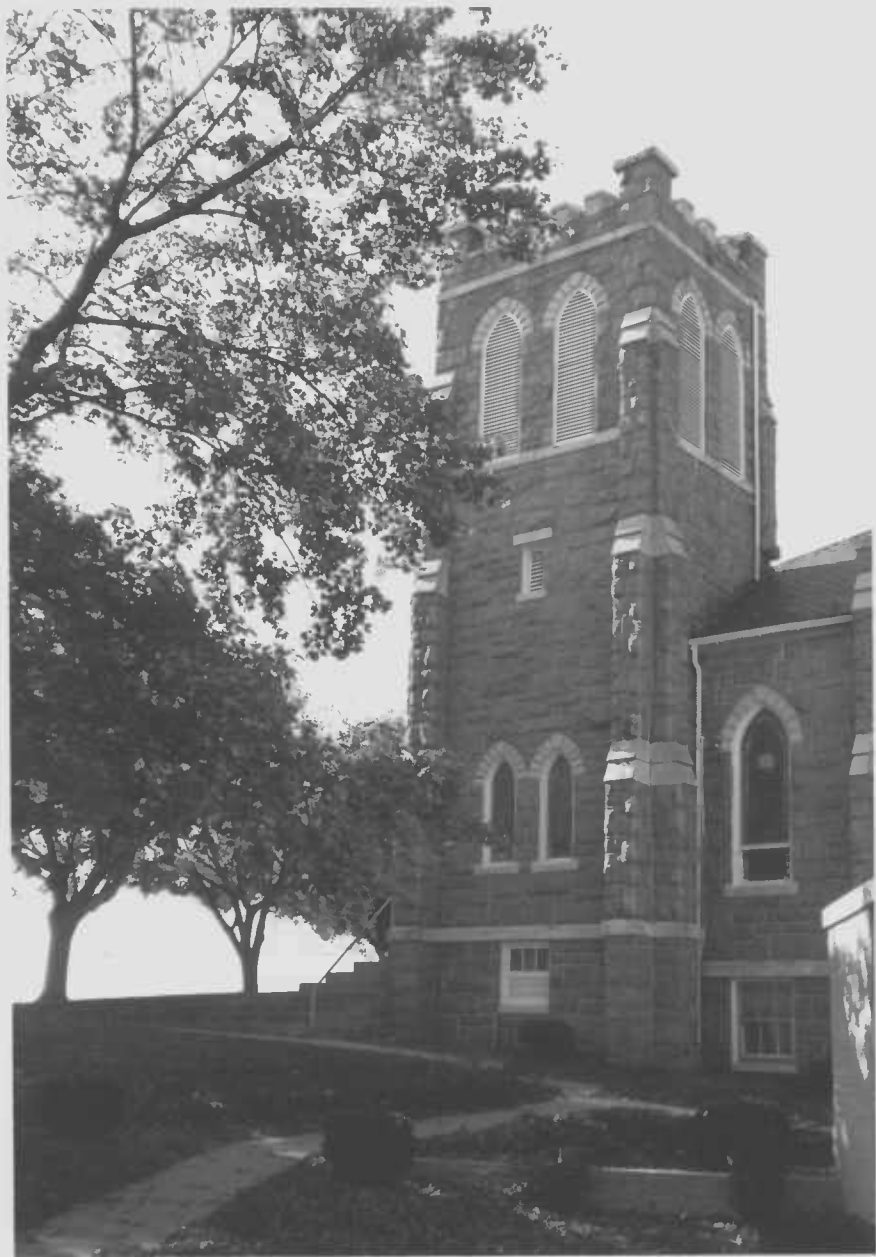
Wesley United Meth. Church

Nov. - 78

Can. - 285

S/E elevator

fredi E.



Wesley United Methodist Church

Nov. - 78

Can. - 285

# S/E elevation of <sup>Southern</sup> tower  
Fred E.